



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2026

Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2026-2027!

Check out St. John's website at:
stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/.
Click on "Children" or "Youth" to find out more
about the programs available.
Register your children/youth by using the
QR code or by visiting our website!



SCAN ME

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WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays
9:30 a.m.

RADIO BROADCASTS
9:30 a.m. *Sundays*
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

LIVESTREAM
Sundays
9:30 a.m.
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Fruit Sunday is August 16

Mark your calendars for a well-loved summer tradition at St. John's - Fruit Sunday! Come enjoy an array of delicious fruit desserts during our coffee & fellowship time, and perhaps share a recipe!

We'll need several desserts, and we invite you to sign up to bring any fruit dessert of your choice - it can be cobbler, crumble, pie, cake, cookies, tarts, bars, pastry, sorbet, etc. It can be homemade or store-bought.

We also need a few helpers for serving, and clean-up - many hands make light work, AND it's fun!

To sign up, email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, write your name on the paper sign-up in the Commons, or sign up using the CCB link found in the weekly E-Voice.



Fruit Sunday
August 16

**Come and enjoy a dessert in
St. John's Hall after worship!**

Join Us for Worship!

Summer Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



Radio Broadcasts

9:30 a.m. Sunday

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net



Video

St. John's YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need;
leave something when blessed."



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

From Our Pastors

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the warm welcome! It is good to be with you while Pastor Pam is on sabbatical. I have been an ELCA pastor since 2010, serving Hayward and Trondhjem Lutheran Churches and St. Olaf College. I now work full-time as a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, and do part-time ministry work.

I will be with St. John's through October 18, helping with worship, pastoral care, and programming as needed. I was hired to be a "bridge" pastor, to provide support for the ministry needs of the congregation, and help lighten Pastor Jonathan's load. I am grateful to be in community with you.

Being hired as bridge pastor made me ponder if there are references to bridges in the Bible. Guess what – there aren't! But there are several references to seasons, and this is a season in the life of this congregation.

Ecclesiastes 3 declares that "for everything there is a season," and even enumerates some of them, "a time to weep and a time to laugh" (3:4), and my personal favorite, "a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing" (3:5). There are many seasons in our lives, and they change. What makes something a season is a beginning and an ending.

When we consider the seasons of the weather – summer, fall, winter, and spring – each season has different tasks, different clothing, different produce, even different feelings. No one is worried about snow removal right now. Peaches are in season and they are delicious. Our bodies feel the heat differently than the cold, we experience the long stretches of sunlight differently than the long dark nights of winter. The seasons change, and we change with them. We respond and adapt. We celebrate the unique things that happen in each season, from watching the trees bud to making snow angels. And sometimes we lament seasonal changes, like when it gets dark at 4:00 p.m. or we have to put on bug spray just to leave the house.

During this season of Pastor Pam's sabbatical, much will stay the same, but some things will change. Some folks will take on more work. Some things will be set aside for a season. The staff and congregation will be adapting and responding. There will be celebrations and laments. Ministry will look a little different, and still be gospel-filled. And then, when Pastor Pam returns, there will be a new season. What gifts will you all have for each other in that new time? Who knows what the Holy Spirit has in mind for you.

Think about this time in your own lives. What seasons are you in? What is God calling you to do in this time? When will some of these seasons end, and new ones begin? How are you responding and adapting? How can others help lighten your load?

To everything there is a season. Thanks be to God.

With care,
Pastor Katie

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis



Pastor Katie Fick

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving.

Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested.

Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 507-663-1097.

Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource or those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



The following St. John's members died last year in this month.

August 3, 2025
Erik Johnson

We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."



Monthly trips to Ruth's House happen! Plus, Sara's house uses the same stockroom.

Below is the newly revised "Current Needs List" for Ruth's House. Check often, as we will focus on their changing needs.

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Floor cleaner
- Vinyl gloves
- Pillows
- Stainless steel appliance cleaner

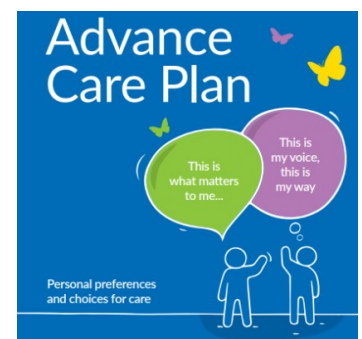
For their ongoing needs and/or for you to donate on your own, see their website. Also consider giving checks or Kwik Trip gas cards to the offering plate or take directly to the Church Office. Thanks for all you do!

Please check out the WELCA corner to see the baskets of collection needs to continue our work for others!

Advance Care Planning Open House Wednesday, September 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Northfield Library, Bunday Room

At this open house session, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive.

A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)



Adults of all ages are welcome. Feel free to bring your own blank or partially-completed health care directive; blank documents will also be available. This event is free.

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective.

Get involved with Children's Programs at St. John's



Parents, grandparents, high school, and middle school youth! Please consider how you can help partner in faith by volunteering with children's programs this year. We try to create opportunities that are easy to commit to and can fit into busy schedules.

Wednesday Afternoons:

- Snack Servers – help serve snack on Wednesdays for our after-school program, 3:45–4:00 p.m.
- Bus Angels – take attendance and see that children are safely on board the bus at either Greenvale, Bridgewater, or Spring Creek schools (about 5-minute time frame). Can be on a rotating basis.
- Youth! Lead games and assist with other activities during our programs.

Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday school team leaders for PreK-K, 1-2 grades, 3-5 grades (on a rotating basis)
- Youth! We'd love to have your help too!

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or call 507-645-4429 if you have question. Thanks!

Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

Would you like to help out on a regular or occasional basis with youth at Wednesday Night Confirmation and High School Youth Group? Volunteering with youth events and regular programming is a great way to get to know the young people in our congregation. Below are some ways you could help in ways big and small -- all of which make a difference to everyone involved.

Wednesday Nights:

- Provide adult presence downstairs between dinner and programming
- Help set up for confirmation, 5:45-6:00 p.m.
- Share game ideas
- Visit to tell part of your story to youth

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping? Please contact Nick Gilbert at 651-792-5573 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Life and Growth

Deaths

June 26, 2026

David Halsor

July 5, 2026

Darlene Schloeder



Radio Broadcasts

July 5, 2026

Given in memory of Edgar Larson
by Helen Larson and family.

July 12, 2026

Given by friends of St. John's.

July 19, 2026

Giving in memory of Milo Quinnell
by the Quinnell family.

July 26, 2026

Given by Chuck and Anita Hellie.

If you would like to
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),
please contact the church office
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Wednesday, September 16

6:15-7:30 p.m.

First Day of Confirmation

First Day of High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 20

Welcome Fest

9:45 a.m.

First Day of Sunday School

First Day of Sunday Youth Group

Wednesday, September 23

3:45-5:30 p.m.

1st Wednesday Afterschool Programming

6:15-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 27

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

3rd Graders Receive their CATechisms

Wednesday, September 30

4:00-4:45 p.m.

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5



Register Now for 2026-2027

Registration is officially open for St. John's youth programming next year, 2026-2027. Time to get registered!

Check out St. John's website at: stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/. Click on "Children" or "Youth" to find out more about the programs available.

Register by using this QR code or click on "Register" on our website.



Good Earth Village is Bringing Summer Camp to Northfield!

St. John's is teaming up with Bethel, St. Peter's, and United Methodist Churches to bring this awesome summer camp here!

When: August 3-6, 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Kids completing grades K-5

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church

Cost: \$70 / camper (scholarships available)



Registration closed on July 18. Julie Brehmer is happy to check and see if there is still room for your child to attend. Email her at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Summer Camp for PreK too! Snowball Mountain Challenge! (VBS)

Who: For kids age 3 by 9/1/26 – age 5

When: August 3-6, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15/Child, Max of \$30/Family
(Please let Julie know if you need help with the cost.)



Hosted by St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and United Methodist Church.

To signup email Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Wednesdays...

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K–5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, Kid's Club (grades K-2), music opportunities, art, and service projects.



St. John's, through Benjamin Bus, provides an afterschool bus to pick up kids from Greenvale, Bridgewater, and Spring Creek elementary schools and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who register for Wednesday programs. Make sure to indicate on the registration form if your child would like to ride!

Catechism for Grades 3-5 is part of our Wednesday afterschool program. Catechism, taught by our pastors, teaches the foundations of Christian faith that Martin Luther prepared for parents to teach their children. At St. John's, we assist parents in providing classes on key parts of the Catechism as part of our overall Education program. Catechism starts on Wednesday, September 30, from 4:00–4:45 p.m.

Confirmation for Grades 6-9 begins on Wednesday, September 16. Join us in Fellowship Hall (lower level) from 6:15–7:30 p.m. Watch for details in the Youth's weekly email.

High School Youth Group for Grades 9-12 begins on Wednesday, September 16 from 6:15–7:30 p.m. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and move to the Youth Room. Watch for details in the Youth's weekly email.

If you are not receiving the Children's and Youth Weekly emails and would like to, please contact Julie at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Nick at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org and we will add your email to our list.

Wednesday Night Programming Starts September 16

It is everyone's first Wednesday night with Nick!

Our first night of confirmation and youth group will include space for parents/guardians to get a peek at how Wednesday nights will look this year. Youth new and returning along with a parent/guardian will get to know Nick, experience our regular rhythm, and start the year as a community.

Grab supper (the first one!) and then come down to Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m., and we'll go from there.

Children and Youth

Welcome Fest! Sunday, September 20

St. Johns is excited to welcome children and youth back for the new school year!

Sunday school for children age 3 (by 9/1/26) to grade 5 starts with an Open House at 9:45–10:00 a.m. in the lower level classrooms.

Parents along with children can check out where your classroom is and meet the teachers!

A delicious breakfast, hosted, and served by St. John's youth (grades 6-12), happens in St. John's Hall from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

From 10:00–10:30 a.m. there will be fun activities for children in St. John's Hall.

Everyone is welcome!

Youth Can Help at the CAC Food Shelf Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Summer is a great time to volunteer!

Sign up for a shift or two this summer with a friend or two, a parent, or on your own.

Up to three people can sign up each Tuesday.

If you have never worked at the food shelf, this is a great way to learn what it's like. Those of us who have volunteered the last two years have had a lot of fun helping our Northfield neighbors in a crucial service.

Scan the QR Code to sign up.



the WOMEN'S page



August
2026

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

RETURNS
SEPTEMBER 3RD

the Time
is NOW

Bring Change to Mind: BC2M Improving Mental Health Awareness at Northfield High School

BC2M, led by Northfield High School art teacher **Karna Hauck**, is a high school program that empowers youth to join together to end discrimination surrounding mental health issues. BC2M creates innovative approaches and partnerships to start mental health conversations, share resources, and tell stories so everyone can thrive in a stigma-free world.



ROKATURAS is an arts studio founded by Mexican artist, **Rocky Casillas**, with a mission to help youth awaken to their infinite potential. Since 2020, the studio has been devoted to creating accessible (age-appropriate, multilingual) mental health-based books, comics and animations for kids and teens.



Along with BC2M student officers, Karna Hauck and Rocky Casillas will share their stories, their wholesome and authentic mental health approaches, and their innovative upcoming collaborative work at Northfield High School for the 2026-27 school year with grants funded by YouthBank and WINGS.

2026-2027 Executive Board



(L to R:)

Janet Lotegeluaki-Secretary, Sara Bright-President, Jennifer Edwins-Treasurer, Nan Winsell, Pam G-G-Past President, Rhonda Reece, Michelle Kramer-Prevost-Vice President, Julie Zdenek-Publicity, Jo Franklin, Alison Kavanaugh, Mary Hoff

St. John's WELCA Board members and several Circle Chairs met on June 27th in their annual leadership retreat. The Board heard reports from Circle Chairs and discussed the upcoming events and calendar for the year. The leadership baton of our WELCA Board was passed from Pam Groves-Gaggioli (now Past President) to Sara Bright (President) and Michelle Kramer-Prevost (Vice President). Many thanks to Pam "G-G" for her leadership and ongoing service! Goals for the 2026-2027 WELCA year at St. John's include: 1) Continuing to encourage all women of St. John's to participate in WELCA activities as their time and talents allow, and 2) Support relevant goals arising from the WELCA Triennial Convention that occurred in July. The Board and Circle Chairs welcome participation in WELCA activities by all the women of St. John's.



Meatball Luncheon Sunday, September 27 noon - 1:30

WELCA heard you loud & clear! We've had many requests to bring back the meatball meal and so we are going to do that!

This year we will use it as a fundraiser to offer scholarships to our youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in the Twin Cities.

\$5.00 per person

\$3.00 for children 5 - 12 years old.
(payable at the door)



Boomers

Summer Boomer's gathering!! We will meet for a social time on Saturday August 15th, from 4:30-6:00 at Reunion. There will be no program, just a time to reconnect before fall starts. Please respond to the email that was sent so we can make a reservation! If you're not on our email list, contact women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Build an Infant Kit, or 2, or 3 ... August 9, 10:30 - 11, St. John's Hall

WELCA is helping Global Health Ministries reach their goal of 20,000 infant kits this year. All the materials have been provided by Global Health Ministries so all we have to do is put them together!

Come have some fun completing this service project and be part of giving a new little one a warm start in life.



Current Needs



Paper Bowls



Paper Plates



Plastic Cups



Plastic Spoons



Toilet Paper



We continue to support Ruth's House and Sara's House with monthly donations. (see newest list below) Leave donated items in the bin under the Women's bulletin board.



Like us & Friend us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
@ Kvinner St. Johns (Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA



News and Updates

Did You Know?

In addition to St. John's own activities, the St. John's building regularly hosts a number of community groups.

In any given week,
even during the summer,
we host:

Senior Exercise Classes

AA

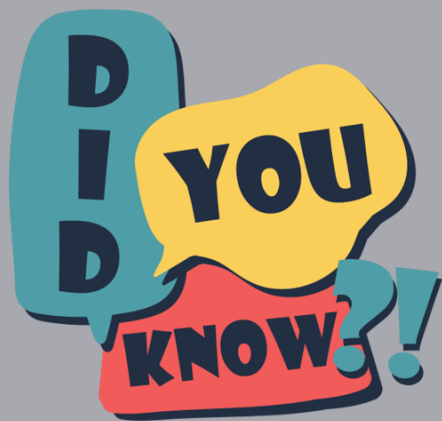
*NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)
Support Groups*

A New Mom's Support Group

Multiple Scout Troops

And we continue our decades-long partnership with Open Door Preschool.

Your offerings help keep
the facility clean and functioning,
and allow us to keep
our building use fees low.



Summer Choir Invitation

Thank you to everyone who sang for our summer choir on July 19!

We will have another opportunity to sing together on Sunday, August 23. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room to rehearse and then sing for the 9:30 a.m. service.

Anyone is welcome to participate! No long term commitment required. You don't have to be in the St. John's Chorale to join us. Youth are welcome to join!

Questions? Contact Nathan Proctor at music@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



School Supply Donations are Requested for LWR School Kits

Purchased supplies can be left in the cardboard School Bus in the Commons. Supplies will be collected in August and early September. Cash donations are also appreciated. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, and write school kits on the memo line. Checks can be left in the church office or the offering plate on Sundays. Our goal is to pack 250 kits, so many supplies are needed! Bags will be packed in September. LWR School Kit List:



- 70 sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf notebook paper
- 30-centimeter rulers, or rulers with cm on one side and 12 inches on the other
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt Fiskar scissors (Fiskar brand preferred as the other ones break easily)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) ink)
- box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

St. John's "Volunteer Build Day" for Habitat for Humanity Saturday, August 22, 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

St. John's has a proud tradition of partnering with Rice County Habitat for Humanity to be one of several Northfield churches that select a Saturday to assist with simple construction tasks (painting, staining, light carpentry) in a home that will go to a qualifying family in need.

The Habitat for Humanity twin duplex build sites located at College St. and Sumner St. E., near St. Peter's Lutheran Church, are finally ready for the indoor construction work to begin! 6 volunteers will be needed for the construction work. No formal carpentry experience or training is needed - you will be shown what to do.



A lunch provider is also needed to feed the crew on this day. This can be 2-3 people signing up to bring the meal items: a main dish, a side, or a dessert. (The food can be homemade or store bought.) Habitat will provide the beverages, plates, and utensils. Lunch providers are invited to eat with the workers if able. A simple meal goes a long way in showing appreciation to those giving their time and talents.

To sign up: Look for the sign-up sheet at the table in the Commons, or email Angie Gehring. Sign up with a family member or a friend, or just yourself! (Must be at least 18 years old.) Helping to build affordable homes for families in our community is a wonderful way to live out our faith through service. Thank you for your support!

Other Dates to Help Ongoing Volunteer Build Days

No construction experience is necessary — our construction team will provide guidance and help you learn along the way. Volunteers must be 18 or older.

Tuesdays & Thursdays every week of August

- 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
- 315 Poplar St. S. (one block from St. John's)

And, beginning August 11, Habitat for Humanity is also seeking volunteers for:

- Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays
- 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- 1114 College St., at the corner of Sumner St. E.

Whether it's your first-time volunteering with Habitat, or you are a returning volunteer, there is a job and a place for everyone. They always appreciate your help!

Contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, or Jodi Wagner at jodihabitat@gmail.com if you'd like to sign up to help. Thank you!

News and Updates

St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

Sunday, August 2

7:10 p.m., Sechler 1
St. John's vs. The River

Sunday, August 9

Make Up Week or Just for Fun Tournament
***If this is a makeup week,
the Just for Fun Tournament moves
to Sunday, August 16.*



News and Updates

Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 7, through Saturday, October 3.

Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported, volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers.

Sign up online thru CCB at https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=97.

If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date. Printed out driver instructions/information will be available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact

Andrea Hoff at 612-743-5767
or andrea.hoff37@gmail.com

or

Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429
or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Thank you for being a part of this important service to Northfield!



Get to know Nick Gilbert

Hello everyone!

I'm sure over the next several months we will all get to know each other, but for now here are 10 fun facts about me:

1. I live in South Saint Paul with my wife, Cassandra, and our dog, Luna. Cassandra is an early education teacher and we have been married since 2018. We got Luna shortly before we got married. She is a very friendly Shih Tzu Brussels Griffon mix.
2. I love to bowl and typically go bowling at least every other week. I am on a bowling team called the Bowling Stones. My average is 193. I learned my first week on staff that there is a Flaherty's Lanes in Northfield. My league is at the original Flaherty's in Arden Hills!
3. I am a big fan of all types of games. In my spare time you can find me gaming on my PS5. I have a vast collection of board games. Regularly on the weekends my family spends time at my aunt's house playing cards with my grandma. I am also known for my vast knowledge of TV and movies. Particularly 80s-90s movies.
4. I grew up playing baseball and basketball, but I never played for my high school. Instead I joined the ultimate Frisbee team and eventually became captain my senior year. I don't play as much anymore, but I do still coach middle schoolers in the Spring for my old middle school.
5. I was fortunate enough to get to spend a month in Germany the summer after sophomore year of high school with my German class. I lived with a host family for a week and then did a very brief tour of the Germanic countries. I would love to go back some day as an adult.
6. My junior year of high school I ruptured my Achilles tendon. I was leading games for our elementary kids at my church and I got a little 4th grade girl out in dodgeball. She got mad and kicked me right in the back of the leg. She also happened to be a soccer player. The girl who did it ended up being in my youth group when I came back to work as the youth director at the church. There were no hard feelings, though I didn't let her forget it.
7. I graduated from Mounds View High School and then started my college life at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Things didn't go well the first few weeks of college and I soon realized that the big campus style was not for me, but I didn't know what to do. I wish it hadn't taken me 2 years to realize that transferring to Bethel University was the best option for me. The smaller class sizes and more personalized attention from professors and my advisor was what I needed and I also found the degree I didn't know I was missing: youth ministry.



Get to know Nick Gilbert

Continued from page 12

8. One of the most meaningful experiences of my life came when I took a J-term class in Ireland my senior year called “Peace, Reconciliation, and the Church.” The class focused on the history of Ireland’s decades long conflict between the Catholic and Protestant communities and how we need to strive for peace and find common ground so that we can restore relationships. This also happened to be the place where my professor lit my beard on fire.
9. The summer after I graduated college I worked as a high school camp counselor at Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI. I took high schoolers up and down the Mississippi river on houseboats. I had never driven a houseboat before and only had a half day of training, but we never had any issues. It was intimidating driving by giant barges or going through a lock and dam, but I survived!
10. I have spent the last 14 years serving my home congregation as the Director of Youth Ministry. It was hard to say goodbye to a place that I love dearly, but I am excited for the opportunity to come to St. John’s and I look forward to getting to know and work alongside all of you!

StraySinger Presents

Auf Wiedersehen

A Farewell Recital



VICTORIA ERICKSON, SOPRANO
JODI GOBLE, PIANO
performing art songs by
Schubert and Schumann



Saturday, August 22nd
4 p.m.

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 3rd Street West
Northfield, Minnesota

Pay as you can
\$30 cash donation suggested

News and Updates

Pub Theology in August

What is Pub Theology?

It is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate.

Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We meet on

Mondays, August 3, 17 & 31,
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes.

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list.

If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org



News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their nineteenth season this summer.

Recitals are held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

Wednesday, August 5

Megan Engel
Bethel Lutheran Church
1321 North Ave.

Wednesday, August 12

Stephen May
Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses.

For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkcollman@msn.com

From Kristin Partlo

Dear people of St. John's,

First off, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the incredible send-off. Your greetings and cards and messages mean so much to me – I take it all with me as I prepare to share that love with folks in Red Wing. Thank you for the kind gifts! I am excited to let you know how I use the gift certificate from the congregation. Most of all, thank you for your presence, in all the shapes and forms that presence takes. Your kindness and encouragement will always be with me.

Recently I was asked what I learned in seminary. My head answered, “What have I learned? What *haven’t* I learned?”

As my last days on the staff of St. John's have approached, that same question has lingered here. What haven't I learned? How could I even begin to share it all?

Here's the thing: I never thought I'd work with youth. I didn't think I could appreciate just how much they are. I like quiet and calm. I appreciate predictability and clear boundaries. I like to slow down and pay attention to little details that don't tend to enliven groups of adults let alone young people. When I was an adolescent, my tolerance for spending time in groups of other young people was low.

But I am beyond grateful that the Spirit led me here - to being on staff at St. John's and working with youth.

Spending time with the youth of St. John's, getting to know them and letting them get to know me, I witnessed again and again how God takes all the beauty and nonsense we contribute and weaves out of it something that sustains and makes space for more. One of the gifts St. John's youth gave me was a new chance to discover in this group of young people just how much there is to love. I witnessed the Spirit at work in our youth at St. John's and my heart was stretched much wider. The answer to the question of what I learned still feels a bit out of reach if only because there is too much to summarize, but I'll keep trying.

Thank you, members and friends of St. John's, for giving me this opportunity to love the youth of this congregation and be loved by them. And thank you, youth of St. John's, for each of the ways you taught me to appreciate God's abundance in a new way. May you continue to see this abundance in each other and feel courageous enough to share it and be united by it. Together, you embody blessing in abundance.

Thanks be to God.

Good Earth Village Summer Camp Photos Grades 2-5, June 21 - 26



GEV Campers this Summer:

Claire Gallagher
Caleb Hassanally
Anders Loy
Isaac Loy
Zemirah Smith
Jameson Taubel



St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Bridge Pastor

Katie Fick

pastorkatiefick@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Nick Gilbert

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

jubilatchoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and
Early Childhood Specialist

arielleloy@gmail.com

David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Faith Community Nurse

Sally Lindell

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Custodian Associate

Arturo Rosas

Facility Manager

Steve Harner

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Paul Beck

pmbeck@gmail.com



St. John's
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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

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Wednesdays
Beginning September 9, 2026
Noon - 1:00 - or - 5:45 - 6:45pm
watch for details